

emergence is dependent on the abundance of the species at the trapping site. Further observation is required to clarify this.

Records from the R.I.S. trap on Guernsey (Site No. 252, grid ref. 49° 26.2'N, 2° 34.3'W) and Jersey (Site No. 146, grid ref. 49° 14'N, 2° 5.5'W) indicate that the flight period on the Channel Islands is somewhat different to that in mainland Britain. At the Guernsey trap, in which the species is more commonly caught than at Jersey, it is consistently recorded between early July and early October, though occasionally the flight period is from early June to early September. Individuals occur randomly throughout the flight period but, at these sites, are always few. Further recording on the islands, where the samples are larger, may reveal interesting observations on the phenology of this species.

Climatic change may affect the phenology of *H. fasciaria* in the future but the frequency of bivoltinism and the factors influencing it should be assessed more thoroughly in the meantime.

Thanks are extended to the operators of the traps mentioned in this article for their continued co-operation.—ADRIAN M. RILEY, Dept. Entomology & Nematology, AFRC Farmland Ecology Research Group, Rothamsted Exp. Stn., Harpenden, Herts AL5 2JQ.

### The Magpie Moth in North-west Scotland

B.K. West's article on the status of *Abraxas grossulariata* L. (*Ent. Rec.* 103: 89) was of considerable interest to me. This is a common and widespread moth, associated with heather and bog myrtle in the coastal regions and inshore islands of N.W. Sutherland and Wester Ross, from the Applecross peninsula clockwise to the Kyle of Tongue (an area I have covered annually since 1964 while leading small parties of our Highland Safaris). The 10km squares where noticed are NG 74 (Applecross), NG 85 and 95 (Torridon), NG 96 and NH 06 (Loch Maree), NG 78 (Melvaig), NB 90 (Tanera More, Summer Isles), NC 13 and 23 (Drumbeg and Kylesku district), NC 14 (Handa RSPB island reserve and Tarbet), NC 15, 25, 26, 27, 37, 36 and 35 (Sandwood Bay, Cape Wrath peninsula, Durness to Loch Eriboll) and NC 56 (Melness).

In 26 years I have found none more than a few miles inland and only a single specimen in the east — this near Strathpeffer (NH 45) on 1st August 1975. This species is sometimes very common as on 16th July 1985 along the scenic Ardmore path, near Rhiconich, and on 5th July 1986 at Melvaig, north of Gairloch, but the most remarkable mass emergence was on the cloudy bright afternoon of 3rd July 1984, when many hundreds were flying or at rest on heather along the peat-cutters' track leading inland from Loch Drumbeg.

The flight period in the Highland Region is from 29th June (1978) to 15th August (1986).—DEREK C. HULME, Ord Drive, Muir of Ord, Ross-shire IV6 7UQ.